Coir products

107. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Coir Board introduced innovative products like coir geo textiles and coir ply in North Eastern Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the market potential of these products; and

(c) what is the demand for these products in international markets?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Coir Board has developed a number of innovative coir products like coir geotextiles, coir ply, coir pith, etc. which are popular both nationally (including North Eastern Region) and internationally. As North Eastern Region (NER) is particularly prone to landslides and soil erosion due to its topography, Coir Board in collaboration with State/Central agencies like Border Roads Organisation, Public Works Departments (PWD) of the respective State Governments, etc. had undertaken field demonstrations on the application of coir geotextiles in Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Nagaland to establish the efficacy of coir geotextiles for preventing solid erosion. Coir Board has organized seminars besides holding field demonstrations for creating awareness on the suitability of coir geotextiles for being used in various bio-engineering applications and to encourage various agencies like Bureau of Indian Standards, PWD of the respective State Governments, National Highway Authority of India, etc. for use of coir geotextiles for various applications.

Coir ply is another product introduced to the region through participation in exhibitions, seminars etc. A collaborative project, to develop composite material from coir by admixing with fibres available locally, is underway with Regional Research Laboratory (North East Institute of Service and Technology-NEIST) of Jorhat in Assam on utilisation of coir fibre for development of wood substitute by blending with other fibres available in the NE region.

(c) Coir geotextile has a niche global market. The global market for geotextiles is roughly estimated at 18.92 million sq.m. Currently coir shares only 22%, the rest being shared mainly by straw, jute and others. The USA, Japan, France and Germany are the leading markets of coir geotextiles. The details of export of coir geotextiles from India to international markets during the last five years are given below:-

Year	Quantity in tones	Value (Rs. lakh)
2003-04	2600	1184.7
2004-05	2323	1049.8
2005-06	2512	1140.6
2006-07	3045	1335.2
2007-08	3365	1444.7